

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 10-12 and 16-18. Applicants will now address each of the Examiner's rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2 and 6-9 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. '826. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite that the protective unit comprises a film wherein both sides of the film are covered with a thin film comprising a rare gas element and a carbon. This is shown, for example, in Fig. 1B in the present application, wherein film 105 is covered on both sides by film 106. See also page 8 of the specification of the present application.

Yamazaki '826 does not appear to disclose or suggest this feature of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon are patentable over this reference, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-15 and 22-25

The Examiner also rejects Claims 1-9, 13-15 and 22-25 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Silvernail et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. '492. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 13 and 22 to recite that the protective unit comprises a film wherein both sides of the film are covered with a film comprising a rare gas element.

Neither Silvernail nor Yamazaki '492 appear to disclose or suggest this feature of independent Claims 1, 13 and 22. Accordingly, these independent claims and those claims dependent thereon are patentable over these references, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 19-21

The Examiner also rejects Claims 19-21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Silvernail-Yamazaki and further in view of Ashe et al. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claim 19 to recite that the protective unit comprises a film wherein both sides of the film are covered with a film comprising a rare gas element.

As explained above, neither Silvernail nor Yamazaki '492 appear to disclose or suggest this feature. Further, Ashe also does not appear to disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, independent Claim 19 and those claims dependent thereon are patentable over these references, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

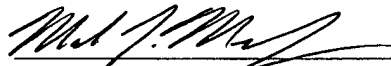
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance, and it is requested that it now be allowed.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1039 for any fee due for this response.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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